

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SCI-06 SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2360

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SCHEDULE

1. LIBERAL CAUCUS MET THIS MORNING DEC 19 AND DECIDED AGAINST LONG CHRISTMAS RECESS IN ORDER PRESS AHEAD WITH LEGISLATION GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS ESSENTIAL. THIS INCLUDES SETTING UP OF NATIONAL ENERGY CORPORATION AND PETROLEUM EXPORT TAXES.

2. GOVERNMENT PLANS RECESS PARLIAMENT TOMORROW EVENING DEC 20 AND RESUME SESSION EVENING OF DEC 26. PROGRESSIVE-CONSERVATIVES HAS BEEN DELAYING PROGRESS ON ENERGY LEGISLATION HOPING TO PROLONG DEBATE UNTIL FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ENERGY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JAN 22. GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CONTINUE DEBATE IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHRISTMAS WILL PROBABLY ENSURE LEGISLATION WILL BE COMPLETED BY MID-JANUARY.

3. LIBERAL SOURCES REPORT THAT AFTER PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION, GOVERNMENT PLANS LENGTHY RECESS, POSSIBLY UP TO SIX WEEKS DURING WHICH SOME SHUFFLING OF CABINET IS LIKELY. THRONE SPEECH ANNOUNCING GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FOR 1974 WOULD BE THEN SCHEDULED FOR LATE FEBRUARY OR EVEN EARLY MARCH.

SCHMIDT

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